



Specification:

Please add the following new section title and paragraph after the title of the application and before the section entitled, "TECHNICAL FIELD":

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is Rule 371 filing of International Application PCT/US2003/019674, which was filed on June 20, 2003, and which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No.: 60/390,576, which was filed on June 21, 2002, both of which are incorporated herein in their entirety by reference.

Please make the following additional changes to the specification. The specification is objected to by the Examiner because of the following informalities: description of Fig. 7-16 is missing. Please amend make the section entitled, "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES" to to amend the descriptions of Figures 7, 8, 9, 13 and 16 and add the descriptions of Figures 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 16 as follows:

[0010] Figure 7 illustrates an initialization operation of the ~~Figure 5 structure~~ in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0011] Figure 8 illustrates an ~~insert operation of the Figure 5 structure~~ the insertion of a new node in a Fibonacci heap data structure in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0012] Figure 9 through 12 ~~illustrate an extract minimum operation of the Figure 5 structure~~ illustrates steps in an extract-minimum operation in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0013] Figure 10 illustrates certain steps in the extract-minimum operation in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0014] Figure 11 illustrates tree consolidation within a Fibonacci heap data structure in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0015] Figure 12 illustrates the creation of a new heap in a Fibonacci heap data structure in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0016] Figure 13 through 16 illustrate an example of a relax key operation of the Figure 5 structure in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0017] Figure 14 illustrates steps in the relax key operation in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0018] Figure 15 illustrates certain steps in the relax key operation in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0019] Figure 16 illustrates additional steps in the relax key operation in accordance with embodiments of the invention.